(c) India is completely self-sufficient for launching remote sensing satellites using Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) and 2-tonne class communication satellites using Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV).

Setting up of an Earth Station

1254. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and USA are holding discussions for setting up an Earth Station in India for receiving data from US-National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages that India would benefit from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) US-National Polar-Orbiting Operational Environmental Satellite System (NPOESS) is a US system satellites to monitor global environmental conditions and collect and disseminate data related to weather, atmosphere, ocean, land and near space environment. A US proposal for setting up an earth station in India for receiving data from NPOESS has been received by the Indian Space Research Organisation.

(c) On successful implementation of the project, India would get real time access to scientific data of importance to earth sciences, environment and meteorology.

Launching of next PSLV

1255. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is getting ready for next PSLV launch;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the preparation for the launch of Chandrayaan were going on well; and

(d) if so, the details thereof;